**IT Applications, Unit 4**

**Security and ethical considerations, Ch 8, p 308**

Ethics and Information Systems

1. Explain what is meant by the term ethics.

* Ethics are the principles of right and wrong that are accepted by an individual or a social group. Ethical behaviour often guides policy makers within organisations.

1. What is the ethical dilemma in relation to video games?

* Violent video games are said to have a negative impact on children as they will think that violence is acceptable in society when it really isn’t.

Key areas relating to ethics and information systems are:

1. Workplace responsibilities
   1. Outline the responsibilities of employees and employers.
   * Employers: must pay staff for the work that they carry out and provide a suitable work environment in which that work can take place.
   * Employees: expected to work in the interests of the organisation for the duration of time they are being paid.
2. Codes of conduct and computer-use policies
   1. What is meant by a code of conduct?
   * A set of conventional principles and expectations considered to binding on any member of a particular group.
   1. What information do computer-use policies generally contain?
   * This document would explain clearly to staff what management believes should and should not be done on computers or peripheral equipment.
3. Employee monitoring
   1. Why are these systems sometimes regarded as unethical?
   * These systems are considered to being unethical because they are checking up on what their employees are doing without their knowledge which is invading their employees’ privacy.
   1. Where does the most common monitoring occur?
   * The most common monitoring occurs on email, PC use and web browsing.
   1. List the advantages and disadvantages of employee monitoring.

Advantages

* + - Save time and money for the employer
    - Making sure that employees are doing the work they are getting paid for

Disadvantages

* + - Employer can be considered to be too intrusive
    - Employees may feel an increase in stress levels
    - Create a mistrust between supervisors and staff
  1. How is web browsing monitored?
  + Web browsing is usually monitored by way of automatic logs. These are stored either on the user’s own machine in a form of a cookie or on a history of sites.
  1. What is a cookie?
  + Cookies are small files that a web server stores on a user’s computer. Cookies typically contain data about the user, such as the user’s email address and web viewing preferences.

1. Ethics and the internet
   1. Explain what is meant by the term, netiquette.
   * Is short for network etiquette. It refers to the conventions of politeness observed in Internet communications such as newsgroups or mailing lists.
   1. List some netiquette guidelines
   * Not posting to inappropriate groups
   * Refraining from commercial advertising
   * Personal messages to one or two individuals should not be posted to newsgroups
   * When responding to an earlier posting the minimum necessary context should be quoted
   * Lines should be less then 70 characters long
   * Before asking a question a user should read the existing messages in the groups frequently asked questions

**Resolving legal, ethical and social tensions,** p 514

1. List the six steps for handling ethical dilemmas.
   * Identify the problem
   * Identify the stakeholders
   * Identify possible alternatives
   * Identify ethical standards
   * Evaluate options
   * Make a decision